Please add the following paragraph at page 4, after line 13:

--As seen in the top view of Fig. 1, the barrel body has four substantially identically shaped, outwardly bowed or convex side surfaces 24a, 24b, 24c and 24d, each side surface being connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners 26a, 26b, 26c and 26d. The convex side surfaces and the rounded corners impart an approximately square-shaped cross-section to the barrel body which allows better use of floor space on a pallet.--

IN THE CLAIMS

A marked up version of the rewritten claims, showing insertions is included in Appendix C. A clean set of the amended claims is attached as Appendix D.

Please cancel claims 1-7.

Please add the following claims:

8. (New) A blow-molded barrel comprising:

a barrel body defined by four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces, each side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners, wherein

the convex side surfaces and the rounded corners impart an approximately square-shaped cross-section to the barrel body.

9. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 8, further comprising at least one horizontal stiffening element that runs along a circumference of the barrel body.

10. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 9, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element is a V-shaped molded piece that is open toward the outside.

11. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 9, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element comprises a thickened mold hoop.

12. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 11, wherein the thickened mold hoop is formed by a stamping-out process.

13. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 11, wherein the thickened mold hoop sticks out from the barrel body.

14. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 13, wherein the thickened mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.

15. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 8, further comprising an upper wall connected to said four side surfaces.

16. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 15, further comprising first and second side bungs, each side bung formed on the upper wall adjacent oppositely facing first and second side surfaces.

17. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 8, further comprising an approximately square-shaped foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor.

18. (New) A blow-molded barrel comprising:

a barrel body defined by four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces, each side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners;

an approximately square-shaped foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor;

an upper wall provided with first and second side bungs formed adjacent oppositely facing first and second of said four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces; and

at least one horizontal stiffening element that runs along a circumference of the barrel body.

19. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 18, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element is a V-shaped molded piece that is open toward the outside.

20. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 18, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element comprises a thickened mold hoop which sticks out from the barrel body.

21. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 20, wherein the thickened mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.

22. (New) A barrel comprising:

a barrel body defined by four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces, each side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners;

an approximately square-shaped foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor; and

at least one horizontal stiffening element that runs along a circumference of the barrel body.

23. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 22, further comprising an upper wall provided with first and second side bungs formed adjacent oppositely facing first and second of said four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces.

24. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 22, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element is a V-shaped molded piece that is open toward the outside.

25. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 22, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element comprises a thickened mold hoop which sticks out from the barrel body.

26. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 25, wherein the thickened mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.